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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
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BRIEFING  
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#### BRIEFING

Ambassador Wilson Presents Credentials to President Sezer:  
The new US Ambassador to Ankara, Ross L. Wilson, presented his credentials to Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer on Thursday, papers report. Welcoming the US Ambassador at the Presidential 'Cankaya' Palace, Sezer expressed pleasure to receive Ambassador Wilson and staff. Wilson conveyed to Sezer two letters from President Bush- the first on the calling back to Washington of the previous ambassador, Eric Edelman, after he was appointed to the US Department of Defense as Undersecretary for Policy, and the second Wilson's letters of credentials.

Ambassador Wilson Interview with "Milliyet": The following is a summary of an interview with Ambassador Wilson carried today in "Milliyet":

`When I spoke of not causing unnecessary problems in bilateral ties with Turkey during my hearing at the US Senate, I had in mind the complicated nature of the US-Turkey relationship. When you are the US Ambassador in Turkey, you have to be successful in dealing with various issues -- you have to juggle many balls at the same time.

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While dealing with one issue, I must see that the other issues are not dropped.'

`Eric Edelman is an old friend of mine. He is among the finest diplomats of our generation. I am aware of, and, disturbed by the fact that there are some in Turkey who made personal attacks against Edelman while he was here. I know that during his last six weeks in Ankara, Edelman made progress toward achieving a better tone in bilateral relations. Nancy McEldowney has continued those forward steps during her time in Ankara as Charge d'Affaires. During mutual high-level visits, it was diagnosed that we had a problem, and the necessary tone was adopted to sort out the problem. My task is to build on that ground, to both strengthen and modernize our relationship. The actual goal is not good relations but to eliminate the common concerns of our two peoples.'

`Bilateral trade between our two countries is not at the level it should be with a country of Turkey's size. American investments, and in general, foreign investments in Turkey are scant. Directing US investors to Turkey will be part of my job. Furthermore, we must work together with the EU to improve the grounds for business and investments in Turkey.'

`My overall goal would be getting US and Turkey to act together on the issues of Iran, Iraq, and Syria, and making sure that such joint actions are recognized by others. Our diplomatic efforts should be jointed to each other -- in this way, we will know about each other's plans, and will not surprise each other. The good point is that, Turkey has been helping the US a lot on Iraq. Washington values that help.'

`I have great sympathy for the thousands of Turks who had been subjected to PKK terrorism. This sympathy is shared by the highest levels of the US Administration. You know that we have been developing a comprehensive common approach with the Turkish government with regard to the PKK. The criteria for the success of our policies on the PKK will first be seen in a decrease of violence, and then in a complete end

to it. Among my priorities in Ankara is to make our new plans a reality.'

`A will spare a considerable part of my time to diplomacy that interfaces with the nation. I will meet with universities, business circles, and civic organizations as much as I can in an effort to explain why the US does something and for what, and more importantly, to listen to the Turks' views. In my understanding, public diplomacy means to keep quiet sometimes and listen to what the others are saying.'

`The US Congress deems important the normalization of Turkey-Armenia ties. It is US policy that the border between the two countries be opened. I will consider the sensitivities of Armenian-Americans and our other nationals on the issue. I am for a dialogue between the two countries. Some recent steps in Turkey and the breaking of the taboo are important.'

`The launch of EU-Turkey accession talks was essential for the long-term interests of Turkey, Europe and the United States. I am planning a close working relationship with the EU ambassadors and the EU Commission Representative in Ankara. US is not a mediator in EU-Turkey talks, but can provide outsider support in times of trouble.'

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`The human rights issue is important for the kind of country that Turkey wants to become. The strengthening of democratic institutions and legal order, and respect for human rights and equality are necessary. I will always convey to the Turkish government and nation the emphasis the United States puts on this issue.'

FBI Chief Mueller Visits Turkey: The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Robert Mueller arrived in Ankara Thursday night to hold a series of meetings with officials including Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu, Security Director General Gokhan Aydiner and Turkish National Intelligence Agency (MIT) Chief Emre Taner, papers report. Mueller will discuss al-Qaida related terrorist activities and drugs trafficking issues with the Turks. The sides will raise the issue of establishing in Turkey an academy to combat terrorism. Turks are preparing to set up a training center such as the UN-backed TADOC academy for fighting international drugs trafficking and organized crime. FBI is expected to donate 3 million USD for the academy. "Cumhuriyet" says in a front-page story that Mueller will discuss with Turkish security officials the smuggling of nuclear parts to Iran and Syria. The paper expects the US to step up pressure on Damascus and Tehran if evidence is found that the two countries have acquired materials to manufacture nuclear weapons. Mueller will ask Turks to prevent smuggling of arms to the insurgents in Iraq. The Turks will tell Mueller that to achieve that effect, US had to strengthen security measures along the border with Iraq, speculates "Cumhuriyet." Mueller will also be briefed on the activities of Islamic organizations and the PKK in Turkey. "Milliyet" reports that Mueller made a 'surprise' request after arrival in Ankara, and asked for the involvement at the talks of deputy Security Director-General for Organized Crime, Emin Arslan, who was sacked three days ago. On Mueller's request, a reluctant Security Director-General Gokhan Aydiner included Arslan in the delegation to meet with the FBI chief, says "Milliyet."

EU Sees Decrease in Torture in Turkey: Turkish dailies report the Council of Europe's Committee for Prevention of Torture (CPT) as saying in a report that evaluated a CPT visit to Turkey in March 2004 that compared to previous years, there has been a drop in torture and mistreatment in Turkish prisons and police stations. In March last year, a CPT delegation had visited prisons and law enforcement facilities in several provinces across Turkey such as Aydin,

Gaziantep, Mugla, Mersin and Izmir. The CPT report advises Turkish authorities to train law enforcement officials. It underlines that the human rights training program for prisons and police centers personnel is seriously implemented in Turkey, and recommends that this program be extended to prosecutors and judges. The report welcomes the Turkish government's work to guarantee the right of detainees to access to a lawyer. The CPT is comprised of independent experts, and it has the right to inspect prisons and police headquarters of Council of Europe member countries.

Gul on Kirkuk, December 15 Polls in Iraq: In a letter sent to UNSYG Kofi Annan on December 2, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul called on the UN to open a representation office in Kirkuk, Turkish papers report. Gul warned that Kirkuk could turn into a venue of instability and confrontation, and asked the government to be established in Iraq to address this issue. Gul stated that if the December 15 legislative polls are held successfully, political transformation in Iraq will gain legitimacy. Gul noted that election observation must be done by UN members as well as other

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international organizations. Gul warned the international community not to repeat the earlier failures in preventing fraud in January polls and in the recently held referendum on the constitution.

TGS on AKP MP Call to Move Military Compounds Outside Ankara: The Turkish General Staff (TGS) responded in a statement yesterday to the ruling AK Party lawmaker Resul Tosun's call for the military to move force command compounds and troops outside the capital Ankara, calling the Tosun remarks a 'delirious claim' to banish the military from 'the sight and the heart of the Turkish nation.' Tosun said in an article he wrote for the Islamist-oriented daily "Yeni Safak" on Wednesday that the large number of military buildings in Ankara gave the city an overly military appearance inappropriate for an aspiring EU member. He also asked that military barracks on the grounds of the parliament be moved to outer areas of the capital, or to another town. 'Such initiatives are worrying, and must be evaluated as individual delirium,' the TGS said in a short statement posted on its website. Tosun, in response, said in a statement yesterday that he stood behind his words 'as a national who believes in civil democracy.' 'In my article, I put forward a highly objective proposal to our General Staff to foil the propaganda waged against our military. I am a Turkish citizen who is proud of our army that inspires trust in our friends and fear in our enemies,' Tosun said.

Aksu on Turkey's Handling of Refugees: Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu told a symposium on international migration in Istanbul on Thursday that the Turkish government is working on projects for better control of Turkey's borders which will soon become the borders of the European Union (EU). Aksu said that about 500,000 migrants enter EU countries illegally every year. Aksu pointed out that Turkey has accepted millions of migrants and refugees in its history. 'Migration into Turkish lands began with the arrival of 300,000 Jews from Spain. In the past 200 years, Turkey has been home for millions of refugees,' Aksu emphasized. Aksu noted that Turkey has received 52,542 refugees from Iraq in 1980, 300,000 from Bulgaria in the 1980s and some 40,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1990s. Aksu stated that his government has opened shelters for the victims of human trafficking in big cities such as Istanbul and Ankara, and that 5.1 million USD has been apportioned to deal with migrants entering Turkey illegally. Aksu also noted that Turkey was refurbishing its border crossings with the latest technology in an effort to tighten the control at the gates against international crimes.

EU Drops Conditions for Direct Trade with Turkish Cyprus:  
On Thursday, the EU Commission decided in a meeting of the EU permanent envoys in Brussels to withdraw its preconditions to launch direct trade with Turkish Cyprus, papers report. Turkey had strongly opposed the EU Commission when it had asked the Turkish side to open the 'ghost city' of Maras (Varosha) to the Greek Cypriots, and to complete an exchange of properties before the EU kicks off free trade with Turkish Cypriots. In the beginning of December, EU envoys had reached an agreement on a financial assistance package of 259 million USD for Turkish Cyprus in a package which came with conditions. The EU Commission said on Thursday that it decided to pull back the conditions due to the strong reactions from Turkey and north Cyprus.

Aksu Denies AKP Wants to Ban Liquor in Turkey: The ruling AK Party denied yesterday claims by some mainstream papers

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that it wants to ban liquor in Turkey, dailies report. The AKP government has issued guidelines to local councils and those run by the AKP have started to ban alcohol from restaurants and cafes run by them, spreading the debate over whether and how to restrict alcohol sales to holiday resorts such as Antalya and Kusadasi. Papers have reported that AKP, in an attempt to discourage drinking, wants to limit establishments licensed to sell alcohol to the edge of towns and cities. 'Observers warned that any restrictions on alcohol in the EU-candidate country risked damaging Turkey's tourist industry. There is no question of a ban. We are a government in favor of freedom, not of bans,' Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said. Aksu accused the AKP's political opponents of deliberately misrepresenting the government's aims.

HRW to Monitor Pamuk Trial: Director of Europe and Central Asia for Human Rights Watch, Holly Cartner, said on Thursday that the trial of acclaimed Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk will show the world which direction Turkish justice is heading, international wire services reported on Thursday. 'The right signal would be prompt acquittal and a strong statement from the bench affirming that Turkish law protects freedom of expression,' Cartner said. Human Rights Watch is sending observers to the trial of Orhan Pamuk, which is due to start on Friday, December 16. Pamuk is being charged with 'insulting the Turkish identity' under article 301 of the criminal code. He was indicted for telling the Swiss magazine "Das Bild" in February that, '30,000 Kurds and one million Armenians were killed in these lands.' If convicted, Pamuk can be imprisoned for up to four years. 'From the world-renowned poet Nazym Hikmet in the 1930s to Orhan Pamuk today, Turkish judges have prosecuted and imprisoned the country's greatest writers. A Turkish judge needs to make a really strong declaration to prove that those days are finally over,' Cartner said.

PKK Landmine Kills 3 soldiers Near Van: A landmine planted yesterday by terrorist PKK fighters in Baskale near the southeastern city of Van killed three Turkish soldiers, papers report. The soldiers were killed by a landmine set off through a remote control device. In the Baglar district of Diyarbakir, a raid on a house turned up 8 kg of C-4 plastic explosives believed to belong to PKK militants.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Sunni Arabs in Iraqi Equilibrium"  
Ozdem Sanberk opined in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (12/9): "The upcoming election in Iraq has an impact on shaping not only Iraq's future but also the security and future of the region. If a stable central government capable of controlling all of Iraq cannot be formed within 4 months after the elections, the constitutional process will be doomed to collapse. If this happens, it will be extremely difficult to ensure Iraq's integrity. This will

also increase the pressure on the Bush administration to pull out. On the other hand, if the US pulls out from Iraq without preserving territorial integrity, there will be serious consequences for both the region and for the globe. One of the most important factors for achieving success in the Iraqi constitutional process is to ensure that Sunnis are not alienated from the political procedure. However it is no secret that Sunnis do not have enough confidence in the US, and they have strong doubts about a just and fair election process. In fact there were many irregularities as well as unjustifiable demographic changes during the January 2005 elections and the October 15 referendum which

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significantly minimized the participation of Sunnis and Turkmen in the political process. The differences among the Sunni groups themselves constitute another major obstacle against full participation of Sunnis in the process."

#### "Middle East and Democracy"

Haluk Ulman wrote in the economic-political daily "Dunya" (12/9): "President Bush defended the Iraq intervention by saying 'the victory of freedom in Iraq will be an inspiration for democracy advocates in Damascus and Tehran.' Anyone who watches the developments in Iraq knows well enough that President Bush is not talking about facts. In fact only he and to his close aids could make this argument. President Bush seems to be fooling himself not only regarding the possibility of a democratic regime in Iraq but also regarding the reduction in insurgent activities. The Greater Middle East project to bring democracy in the Middle East region is nothing but a still-born baby. Democracy is not the main target here, because Bush believes that once these countries are ruled with democracy they will all pursue a pro-American line. In fact he is very wrong to believe this. Democracy in the Middle East will harm the US most. The current US presence in this region is made possible by the conservative and authoritarian regimes. Unfortunately the Bush administration is mixing reality with dreams."

#### "Efforts for a More Active Foreign Policy"

Washington-based Mesut Hazar wrote in the conservative-nationalist "Turkiye" (12/9): "Many senators from Bush's party recently requested that the US correct its mistakes in Iraq and end the US-single-handed war. Therefore, it will not surprise anyone if the US starts pulling out from Iraq in 2006. The most important issue here is what kind of a 'peace force' will be in place once the US troops are gone. At this point, Turkey's value and importance as a strategic partner of the US is unquestionable. In the past, the US did not listen to Turkey adequately. It did not take the concerns of Turkish diplomats and the military officials into account properly. The US should have benefited from Turkey's centuries-old experience. Now it is time to correct the mistakes of the past. The US should fulfill the requirements to improve the relations with its strategic partner and friend Turkey. In order to achieve this, the US first should eliminate Turkey's concerns regarding northern Iraq. Now it is time for action instead of promises. The Turkey-US relationship will improve immensely if the US eliminates the PKK in northern Iraq, ignores the Greek and Armenian lobbies' anti-Turkey activities in the US, and if it supports Turkey's EU and Cyprus policies."

WILSON